

Message Text

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ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /207 W

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P R 121130Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 524

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA: GATT ARTICLE XXIV: 6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF STATE 27881

1. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY REFTEL OFFICE OF GSL DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE CHECKED OWN FILES AND OTHER GSL OFFICES CONCERNED WITH GATT MATTERS. ANSWER IS GSL IN COLOMBO UNAWARE DEC 13 EC OFFER.

2. COMMERCE OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY THIS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND BUT MIGHT BE EXPLAINED BY KEY ROLE CEYLONese AMB TO EC, GAMANI COREA (UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL DESIGNATE), HAS HAD IN SRI LANKA-EC NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING ENLARGEMENT. THUS HE MAY HAVE HANDLED DEC 13 OFFER HIMSELF. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND FROM COREA PERSONALLY THAT INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON EC ENLARGEMENTS WITH EC BRUSSELS STAFF HAVE PROGRESSED GENERALLY TO GSL'S SATIS-

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FACTION.

3. CONCIDENTALLY, DEC 13 CEYLON DAILY MIRROR ARTICLE QUOTED COREA TO EFFECT EC HAD PROPOSED SEVERAL CONCESSIONS SUCH AS REMOVAL OR LOWERED DUTIES ON PACKETED TEA, COCONUT PRODUCTS, TOBACCO, CERTAIN SEA FOODS, TEXTILE MANUFACTURES, ETC. COREA SAID THAT FOLLOWING JAN 1 REPLACEMENT COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE BY EC COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF, PREFERENCES WOULD BE GRADUALLY ELIMINATED OVER A PERIOD THROUGH 1977, BUT THAT EC WOULD MAKE ADJUSTMENTS UNDER GENERALIZED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES. AS JAN 11 LUNCHEON AMB VAN HOLLEN GAVE FOR COREA HE (COREA) TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ON ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. GSL HAS FOLLOWED INDIA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC ON SAME MATTER. ACCORDING COMMERCE OFFICIAL, GSL WILL TRY TO DUPLICATE APPROXIMATELY INDIAN ARRANGEMENT WITH ADJUSTMENTS FOR SRI LANKA'S OWN TRADE MIX WITH ENLARGED EC. GSL HOPES COREA WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC COMMISSION BEFORE APRIL WHEN HE ASSUMES UNCTAD OFFICE.
VAN HOLEN

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